

FORM TO BE USED BY A PRISONER IN FILING A CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

(1) RASHAD WILLIAMS QC-3320(JUL16/28)<sup>Prisoner had
when incident
occurred</sup>
(Name of Plaintiff) (Inmate Number)

SCI-FAYETTE 48 overland dr Lorette, PA
(Address) 15450

(2) _____
(Name of Plaintiff) (Inmate Number) _____
(Address) _____
(Case Number) _____

(Each named party must be numbered,
and all names must be printed or typed)

vs.

CIVIL COMPLAINT

(1) John E. Wetzel
(2) JANE/JOHN Doe(s) Director of S.P.C.
(3) Michael Oppman
(Names of Defendants) et al

(Each named party must be numbered,
and all names must be printed or typed)

FILED
SCRANTON

APR 20 2020

PER SJ
DEPUTY CLERK

TO BE FILED UNDER: 42 U.S.C. § 1983 - STATE OFFICIALS
 28 U.S.C. § 1331 - FEDERAL OFFICIALS

I. PREVIOUS LAWSUITS

- A. If you have filed any other lawsuits in federal court while a prisoner, please list the caption and case number including year, as well as the name of the judicial officer to whom it was assigned:

RASHAD WILLIAMS v. Delaware County Bd of Person Inspect
ors, et. al 19-2735

Cath

Defendants

4. SANDRA CALLAWAY

INMATE accounting @ SCI - FAYETTE

48 Overlook dr, La Belle PA, 15450

5 Rhonda House

SCI-Fayette, Grievance Coordinator

48 Overlook drive, La Belle PA 15450

6. MARK CAPOZZA

WARDEN @ SCI - FAYETTE

48 Overlook dr, La Belle PA, 15450

7. Jane / John Doe Lieutenant

central office

1920 Technology Parkway Mechanicsburg PA 17050

8. Jane / John Doe Mail Room supervisor

@ SCI - FAYETTE

48 Overlook dr, La Belle PA, 15450

9. Jane / John Doe former mail room supervisor

@ SCI - FAYETTE

48 Overlook dr, La Belle PA, 15450

10 Keri Moore, Assistant grievance officer

of OFC of INM grievance & Appeals

II. EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

In order to proceed in federal court, you must fully exhaust any available administrative remedies as to each ground on which you request action.

- A. Is there a prisoner grievance procedure available at your present institution? Yes No
- B. Have you fully exhausted your available administrative remedies regarding each of your present claims? Yes No
- C. If your answer to "B" is Yes:
1. What steps did you take? 1st, 2nd AND 3rd APPEALS
-
2. What was the result? DENIED / DISMISSED
-
- D. If your answer to "B" is No, explain why not:
-

III. DEFENDANTS

(1) Name of first defendant: John F. Wetzel

Employed as Secretary of PA at Dept of Corrections
Mailing address: 1920 Technology Parkway, Methuen, MA 01843

(2) Name of second defendant: Jane/John Doe, Director, CEO etc
Employed as Director (etc) at Security Processing Center
Mailing address: 268 Bruceton Rd, Bellefonte, PA 16823

(3) Name of third defendant: Michael Opperman
Employed as Business Manager at SCT - FAYETTE
Mailing address: 48 Overlook Dr., LaBelle, PA 15450

(List any additional defendants, their employment, and addresses on extra sheets if necessary)

IV. STATEMENT OF CLAIM

(State here as briefly as possible the facts of your case. Describe how each defendant is involved, including dates and places. Do not give any legal arguments or cite any cases or statutes. Attach no more than three extra sheets if necessary.)

1.

SEE ATTACHMENT

2. _____

3. _____

V. RELIEF

(State briefly exactly what you want the court to do for you. Make no legal arguments. Cite no cases or statutes.)

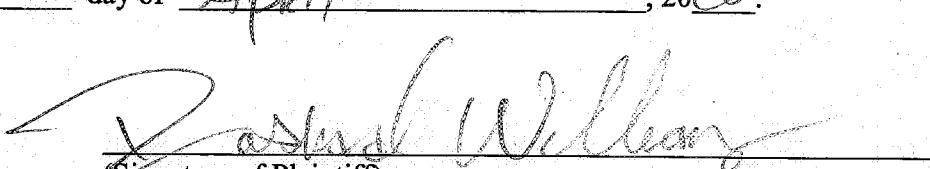
1. see ATTACHMENT

2. _____

3. _____

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this 14 day of April, 2020.


(Signature of Plaintiff)

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE
DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Case No.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Rashad Williams,

Plaintiff

-V.S.-

1. John E. Wetzel, Secretary of Corrections,
Pennsylvania Department of Corrections;
2. Jane/John Doe(s) Director/CEO of Security Processing
Center, (Bellefonte, Pennsylvania);
3. Michael Oppman, Business Manager, SCI-FAYETTE;
4. Sandra Callaway, Inmate Accounting, SCI-FAYETTE;
5. Rhonda House, Grievance Coordinator, SCI-FAYETTE;

6. Mark V. Capozza, Superintendent,SCI-FAYETTE;
7. Jane/John Doe, Lieutenant, Central Office;
8. Jane/John Doe, Mail Room, SCI-FAYETTE;
9. Jane Doe former Mailroom Supervisor, SCI-FAYETTE;
10. Keri Moore, Assistant Grievance Officer of Secretary's Office of Inmate Grievances and Appeals;
11. Dornia Varner, Chief Grievance Officer, Secretary's Office of Inmate Grievances and Appeals;
12. State Correctional Institution at Fayette.

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE(S) OF SAID COURT:

I. COMPLAINT

AND NOW COMES, Rashad Williams, Pro Se, and requests that this Honorable Court grant 'Relief' requested in this matter, and avers the following in support thereof:

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This is a civil action authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 1983, 42 U.S.C. § 2000cc-
et seq. 1 to redress the deprivation, under color of state law, of rights secured by
the Constitution of the United States.

The Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and § 1373(A)(3).

Plaintiff seeks declaratorily relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201 and 2202.

Plaintiff claims for injunctive relief are authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2283 and
2284, and Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (FRCP).

2. United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania is an

appropriate venue under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because it is where the events giving rise to this claim occurred.

PARTIES

III. PLAINTIFF

3. Rashad Williams, is a Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Inmate currently housed at State Correctional Institution at Fayette ("SCIF").

IV. DEFENDANTS

4. John E. Wetzel, Secretary of Pennsylvania Department of Correction;
5. Jane/John Doe(s) Director/CEO of Security Processing Center ("SPC") (Bellefonte, Pa.);
2. Jane/John Doe(s) Director/CEO of Security Processing Center, (Bellefonte, Pennsylvania);
3. Michael Oppman, Business Manager, SCI-FAYETTE;
4. Sandra Callaway, Inmate Accounting, SCI-FAYETTE;
5. Rhonda House, Grievance Coordinator, SCI-FAYETTE;
6. Mark V. Capozza, Superintendent,SCI-FAYETTE;
7. Jane/John Doe, Lieutenant, Central Office;
8. Jane/John Doe, Mail Room, SCI-FAYETTE;
9. Jane Doe former Mailroom Supervisor, SCI-FAYETTE;
10. Keri Moore, Assistant Grievance Officer of Secretary's Office of Inmate Grievances and Appeals;
11. Dornia Varner, Chief Grievance Officer, Secretary's Office of Inmate Grievances and Appeals;

12. State Correctional Institution at Fayette.

V. EXHAUSTION OF AVAILABLE REMEDIES

Plaintiff exhausted his administrative remedies.

Each defendant is sued individually and in his/her official capacity. At all times mentioned in this *Complaint* each defendant acted under the color of state law to deprive plaintiff of his Constitutional rights.

VI. STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. On May 23, 2019, Inmate Accounting at State Correctional Institution-Fayette had deducted and processed \$ 62.90 as requested, from Plaintiff's account for Religious/Islamic books from Islamic Book Store ("I.B.S.").

2. After approximately three (3) weeks, the book store sent Plaintiff an invoice stating that the books were out of stock.

3. Plaintiff re-submitted a different selection of books.

4. After due time has elapsed, Plaintiff wrote the bookstore enquiring about his pre-paied books.

5. Islamic Book Store ("I.B.S.") responded back informing Plaintiff that the inquired books were sent/forwarded to Security Processing Center ("S.P.C.") (Bellefonte, Pa.) on August 05, 2019.

6. On August 29, 2019 Plaintiff submitted a Request to Staff (Business Manager Oppman) inquiring about his religious books that were ordered.

7. On September 12, 2019 Mr. Oppman on the sam Request to Staff responded with "books have not arrived yet."

8. In October, 2019, Plaintiff sent a missive/Complaint to Security

Processing Center, (cc: Business Manager, Superintendent and Inmate Accounting) inquiring about said Religious books ordered.

9. On November 15, 2019 Plaintiff put Mr. Wetzel on notice about not receiving his misplaced, re-routed or theft of his religious books.
On November 15, 2019 Plaintiff submitted A grievance (AO: 835100)

10. On November 21, 2019 Plaintiff received a denial response from grievance Coordinator, Rhonda House.

11. On November 22, 2019 Mr. Wetzel responded to Plaintiff with following the grievance procedure.

12. On Novemeber 21, 2019 Plaintiff filed grievance appeal to Mark V. Capozza, Superintendent.

13. On November 25, 2019 at approx. 0800 (8:00 a.m.) H-A Unit Counselor Susie Sherman had informed Plaintiff through a talk, that a Jane/John Doe L.T. from Central Office had e-mailed her, concerning Plaintiff books. The Jane/John Doe Lieutenant, said in the e-mail (according to Ms. Susie Sherman) that the Plaintiff has to 'contact' the book company/Store and security *Processing Center*.

14. On November 25, 2019 Plaintiff submitted a Request to Mr. Capozza enquiring/explaining about his books.

15. On December 05, 2019 Mr. Capozza responded with 'he'll forward what Plaintiff explained to (Jane Doe) Mail Room Supervisor.

16. In December, 2019 Mailroom Supervisor (Name unlegible) responded with "if they (i.e. the Plaintiffs books) came here (SCI-FAYETTE'S Mailroom) I (Plaintiff) would have gotten them."

17. On December 05, 2019 Plaintiff submitted a second missive to Security Processing Center, inquiring about his property, yet again.

18. On December 17, 2019 Mr. Capozza dismissed Plaintiffs grievance as being untimely.

19. On the evening of December 17, 2019 Plaintiff submitted, the Final

Appeal to Chief Grievance Officer, as of January 31, 2020. Plaintiff has yet to receive a response.

20. On February 13, 2020 Plaintiff submitted a Criminal, Complaint against S.P.C. for theft, inter alia.

21. On February 28, 2020 Plaintiff received his final grievance response, Denied/Dismissed.

VII. INADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE RELIGION

22. Defendant John E. Wetzel, violated Plaintiff's Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) by being cognizant through carbon copies of missives, complaints that Security Processing Center has not forwarded Plaintiff's Religious books.

23. Defendant(s) Jane/John Doe Director Exec's etc. of Security Processing Center, violated Plaintiff's Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RULIPA) by delaying the delivery of two (2) spiritual based books.

24. Defendant Michael Oppman (Business Manager) Plaintiff's Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) by further depravement of religious books, after being cognizant through request to staff, missives/complaints that Security Processing Center did NOT forward Plaintiff's religious books.

25. Defendant Sandra Callaway (Inmate Accounting) violated Plaintiff's Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) by being cognizant through request to staff that Security Proecssing Center has NOT forwarded Plaintiff's, religious books.

26. Defendant Mark V. Capozza, violated Plaintiffs Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) by being cognizant through request to staff, missives, complaint(s) and grievances, that Security Processing Center has

NOT forwarded Plaintiffs religious books.

27. Defendant Rhonda House (Grievance Coordinator), violated Plaintiff's RELIGIOUS LAND USE AND INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS ACT (RLUIPA) by being cogizant through grievance that Security Processing Center has NOT forwarded Plaintiff's Religious books.

28. Defendant Jane/John Doe Lieutenant ,violated Plaintiff's RELIGIOUS LAND USE AND INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS ACT (RLUIPA) by being cogizant through Request to Staff, and defendant's own admission (via e-mail sent to SCI-FAYETTES H-A Unit Counselor Susie Sherman) that Security Processing Center has NOT forwarded Plaintiff's Religious books.

29. Defendant Jane/John Doe Mail Room Supervisor ,violated Plaintiff's RELIGIOUS LAND USE AND INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS ACT (RLUIPA) by being cogizant through forwarded Request to Staff, that Security Processing Center has NOT forwarded Plaintiff's Religious books.

30. Defendant Jane/John Doe ~~former~~ Mailroom Supervior ,violated Plaintiff's RELIGIOUS LAND USE AND INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS ACT (RLUIPA) by being cogizant through Request to Staff, that Security Processing Center has NOT forwarded Plaintiff's Religious books.

31. Defendant Keri Moore, Assistant Grievance Officer (Inmate Grievance and Appeals), violated Plaintiff's RELIGIOUS LAND USE AND INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS ACT (RLUIPA) by being cogizant through grievances and appeals that, that Security Processing Center has NOT forwarded Plaintiff's Religious books.

32. Dorina Varner, violated Plaintiff's RELIGIOUS LAND USE AND INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS ACT (RLUIPA) by being cogizant through grievances and appeals that, that Security Processing Center's actions and inactions and through Keri Moore acting on behalf of defendant.

33. Defendant STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION-FAYETTE, violated Plaintiff's RELIGIOUS LAND USE AND INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS ACT (RLUIPA) because its where the initial transaction took place at.

34. All defendants violated Plaintiff's First (1st) and Fourteenth (14th) Amendments by knowingly depriving spiritual based books which provided Religious instruction to practice upon the ORTHODOXY precepts of Islam. See; Robinson v. Department of Correction, 2007-WL-2107172 *3 (N.D. F.H., 07-13-2017).

35. All defendants denied Plaintiff the access to these books which substantially burdened Plaintiff's Religious exercise because Plaintiff's part of a small congregation/community of Sunni (i.e. those who adhere to a Math-Hab/A particular way, Hanafi/Orthodox) Muslims who do NOT follow/ascribed to) the overwhelming understanding of Salafi Muslims in SCI-FAYETTE (Pa. DOC's).

36. All defendants denied Plaintiff's Free Exercise of religion by depriving Plaintiff spiritual materials of his ilk which provides Religious Instruction According to the Hanafi Math-Hab (Jurisprudence) and without which Plaintiff could not adequately practice the precepts of his religion. See; Sutton v. Rasheed, 323 F.3d 236, 252-54 (3d Cir. 2003).

37. The deprivation of Sunni-Orthodox books substantially burden Plaintiff's Religious rights by forcing him to read Non-Sunni books, pamphlets and/or periodicals of the Salafi persuasion.

38. The Plaintiff has been subjected to intentional discrimination on the basis of his understanding of classical (Sunni/Orthodox) Islam. ~~Throughout~~ the Pa. Department of Correction, it is well known that Salafi Clergy and Salafi Muslims are the overwhelming majority and their teachings comes from ^{SAIFI} Materials.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

39. The negligence of defendants, Security Processing Center, Mark Capozza, Rhonda House, Michael Oppman, Sandra Calloway, and John E. Wetzel, to follow up on Plaintiff's pre-paide Religious Books after being cognizant that ("SPC") did NOT forward Plaintiff's property, constituted deliberate indifference to Plaintiff's Religious needs.

40. All Defendants violated Plaintiff's First (1st) and Fourteenth (14th) Amendments Rights in retaliation for filing grievances, and litigation in State and Federal Court, which included deprivement of religious materials, Access to the Courts, and right to redress grievance(s).

41. All defendants arbitrarily and unreasonably deprived Plaintiff of his property without giving Plaintiff a hearing or affording Plaintiff a sufficient post-deprivation remedy.

WHEREAS, all defendants violated Plaintiff's RULIPA (42 U.S.C.S. § 2000 cc.1 et seq. The First (1st) Amendment free exercise rights, and Fourteenth (14th) Amendment Rights to Equal Protection.

WHEREAS, all defendants infringed Plaintiff's First (1st) Amendment right.

WHEREAS, all defendants censorship of Plaintiffs and other similiarly situated inmates, premised on Plaintiffs Religion.

REQUESTED RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, request that this Honorable Court grant the following relief:

A. Declare that all defendants violated Plaintiffs First (1st) amendment Free Exercise of Religion, and RELIGIOUS LAND USE AND INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS ACT (RLUIPA).

B. Declare that all Defendants violated Plaintiffs Rights under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth (14th) Amendment.

C. Award **COMPENSATORY** damages in the following amounts:

1. One Thousand Dollars (\$ 1, 000.00) against each defendant jointly and severally, plus the appropriate pre and post-judgment interest rate.

2. Award **PUNITIVE** damages in the following amounts:

Five Thousand (\$ 5, 000.00) against each defendant jointly and severally, plus the appropriate pre- and post-judgment interest rate.

INJUNCTIVE

3. Issue and immediate Order, directing that Pennsylvania, Department of Corrections, Security Procesing Center, process, expedite, and deliver Plaintiff's Religious books.

Grant Plaintiff such relief as it amy appear Plaintiff is entitled to.

Dated: This _____ day of March, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

Rashad Williams
Plaintiff, Pro Se

Rashad Williams JU-1628
SCI-FAYETTE
48 Overlook Drive
La Belle, Pennsylvania
15450

RASHAD/Melvin Williams
SCI FAYETTE

48 Overlook dr.

La Belle, PA 15450

RECEIVED
SCRANTON

APR 20 2020

PER _____
DEPUTY CLERK

U.S. Di
Middle district

William J. Nea
235 N. Washin
Scranton, E

LEGAL
MAIL